Average price of F. C. V. Tobacco

2133. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average price of flue cured Virginia tobacoo on the auction platforms this year and what was the last year's price; and

(b) whether there is any fall in price and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) According to the Tobacco Board the average price for FCV tobacco at auction platforms in, AP as on 19-3-90 was Rs. 16. 01 per kg. as against Rs. 21. 80 per kg last year. The Tobacco Board has clarified that last year the trade had initially paid higher prices for a month expecting the crop to be of a small size but subsequently on finding that the crop was in fact large they had brought down the prices.

Auction platforms for FCV Tobacco

2134. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco auction platforms for flue cured Virginia tobacco are functioning well without any interruption in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) There were interruptions on certain days at the auction platforms in protest against fall in prices. These were, however, amicably resolved on assurance from the Tobacco Board officials that they would closely monitor prices to ensure that the growers get a reasonable price.

Production of Cotton Crop.

2135. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA; Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased **to** state:

(a) what is the estimated production of cotton crop during the current season;

(b) the export quota (variety-wise) which has already been released and whether there is any proposal to increase the same;

(c) what has been the actual exports till date; and

(d) what is the price realised by the farmers during the year as compared to past three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The production of cotton during the current season 1989-90 has been estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board at 122 lakh bales.

(b) Government have released quotas for the export of 11. 50 lakh bales of staple cotton, 1. 00 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton, 0. 50 lakh bales of soft Cotton Waste, 0. 25 lakh bales of Yellow pickings, 0. 10 lakh bales of Assam Commilla cotton and 1. 00 lakh Kgs. of Hard Cotton Waste so far during the current Cotton Season 1989-90. The release of further quotas will depend on factors like price situation, interests of consumers, etc.

(c) About 5. 65 lakh bales were registered for export while about 0. 68 lakh bales of cotton had been shipped till 16-3-90.

(d) A statement is attached. *[See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 87]